

## Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 SY-05 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /064 W

----- 099155

R 180818Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2942

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

SECDEF

CINCPAC

CDR JCRC CP SAMAE SAN THAI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MOPS, CASC, LA

SUBJ: DEAN-SHARMAN CASE

1. TRANSMITTED HEREIN IS TEXT OF MARCH 17 LETTER FROM  
AMBASSADOR TO PRIME MINISTER SOUVANNA PHOUMA.

2. BEGIN TEXT OF LETTER:

HIGHNESS:

SINCE YOU HAVE BEEN KIND ENOUGH ON MORE THAN  
ONE OCCASION TO EXPRESS INTEREST IN THE CASE OF THE  
MISSING AMERICAN TOURIST CHARLES DEAN AND HIS AUSTRALIAN  
COMPANION NEIL SHARMAN, I SHOULD LIKE TO BRING YOU UP TO  
DATE ON THE MOST RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS UNFORTUNATE  
AFFAIR.

HIS EXCELLENCY PHAGNA PHOUMI VONGVICHIT, ON  
FEBRUARY 28, ADDRESSED LETTERS TO SECRETARY OF STATE  
HENRY A. KISSINGER AND TO ME WITH WHICH HE FORWARDED  
COPIES OF A LETTER DATED FEBRUARY 24 FROM THE VIENTIANE  
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REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LAO PATRIOTIC FRONT. THE LATTER

DOCUMENT CONVEYS THE RESULTS OF AN "INVESTIGATION" PURPORTEDLY CARRIED OUT BY THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AND INTRODUCES THE UNSUBSTANTIATED SUGGESTION THAT ACTIVITIES BY THAI AUTHORITIES MIGHT SOMEHOW ACCOUNT FOR THE DISAPPEARANCE OF MESSRS. DEAN AND SHARMAN. I HAVE NOW REPLIED TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER IN A LETTER DATED MARCH 10, MAKING CLEAR THAT MY GOVERNMENT IS NOT AT ALL SATISFIED WITH THE REPORT FURNISHED BY THE LPF REPRESENTATIVE. COPIES OF THIS CORRESPONDENCE ARE ATTACHED.

I HAVE ALSO DISCUSSED THE CASE AGAIN WITH HIS HIGHNESS PRINCE SOUPHANOUVONG, WHO RECEIVED ME IN LUANG PRABANG ON MARCH 6. IN THIS CONVERSATION, I STRESSED THAT THE "INVESTIGATION" CONDUCTED BY THE LPF DID NOT REALLY ADDRESS THE WEALTH OF INFORMATION ABOUT THE CAPTURE AND DETENTION OF MESSRS. DEAN AND SHARMAN WHICH HAD ALREADY BEEN FURNISHED TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. I STATED ALSO THAT MY GOVERNMENT THEREFORE FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO ACCEPT UNSUBSTANTIATED DENIALS BY THE PATRIOTIC FRONT THAT ITS PERSONNEL HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE TWO YOUNG MEN. HIS HIGHNESS HAD NOTHING TO ADD TO THE FEBRUARY 24 COMMUNICATION FROM THE LPF REPRESENTATIVE IN VIENTIANE BUT DID UNDERTAKE TO PURSUE THE MATTER FURTHER WITH THE LPF CENTRAL COMMITTEE DURING THE COURSE OF HIS FORTHCOMING TRIP TO SAM NEUA.

IN ADDITION, I HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT, IN THE ABSENCE OF SECRETARY KISSINGER FROM WASHINGTON, THE ACTING SECRETARY OF STATE MR. ROBERT S. INGERSOLL SUMMONED AMBASSADOR KHAMPHAN PANYA TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE ON MARCH 7 FOR A DISCUSSION OF THE DEAN CASE. THE ACTING SECRETARY INFORMED THE AMBASSADOR THAT THE UNITED STATES FINDS IT DIFFICULT TO ACCEPT DENIALS BY THE LPF THAT MESSRS. DEAN AND SHARMAN ARE IN LPF CUSTODY, GIVEN THE LARGE AMOUNT OF INFORMATION TO THE CONTRARY WHICH HAS BEEN RECEIVED. I UNDERSTAND THAT THE ACTING SECRETARY STRESSED THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH THE UNITED STATES VIEWS THIS MATTER.

ONCE AGAIN, I SHOULD LIKE TO SOLICIT THE ASSISTANCE OF YOUR HIGHNESS IN URGING THE LAO PATRIOTIC FRONT TO RELEASE MESSRS. DEAN AND SHARMAN IMMEDIATELY AND THUS ELIMINATE A NEEDLESS IRRITANT TO THE RELATIONS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BETWEEN OUR TWO NATIONS.

(COMPLIMENTARY CLOSE)

END OF TEXT

3. PLEASE INFORM HOWARD DEAN.  
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DETENTION, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 MAR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** MartinML  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** MartinML  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
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**Review Date:** 03 JUL 2003  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** DEAN-SHARMAN CASE  
**TAGS:** MOPS, CASC, LA, US, AS, (SOUVANNA PHOUMA), (DEAN, CHARLES M), (SHARMAN, NEIL), (WHITEHOUSE, CHARLES S)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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